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The Daily Gamecock, Friday, November 10, 2006

University of South Carolina, Office of Student Media

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Nick Esares / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Brent Scarpo, a documentary filmmaker on tour with his film "A Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium," talked to USC students Thursday in the Russell House Ballroom during Creed Week recognition.

Reel-time wrath

Filmmaker brings hate-crime documentary to USC

Morgan Bradham
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Filmmaker Brent Scarpo of New Light Media Productions presented his documentary, "A Journey to a Hate-Free Millennium," in the Russell House Ballroom on Thursday.

Invited by the Residence Hall Association, Scarpo's presentation was part of Creed Week.

As Scarpo had visited the university previously in 1999, Wilkins said he felt that the program was a perfect fit for Creed Week.

"It discourages bigotry, and promotes awareness about hate crimes, because stereotypes and culture-related misunderstanding are the foundation of such crimes," Wilkins said.

While RHA members were attending an annual conference in San Francisco, Scarpo's agent contacted RHA adviser Sean McGreevey. The filmmaker was hoping to re-start the documentary's tour of the East Coast, said RHA President Terrill Wilkins, a fourth-year history student.

Crimes based on race, religion and sexual orientation were the focus of the film.

Rachel Miles, a first-year business student, said she attended as part of her University 101 class.

"This documentary seemed interesting because it included hate crimes such as Columbine High School, and I am also interested in the race-

FILM • 2

Columbia council axes smoking in restaurants

Bars not affected by ban; students satisfied, angry

Gina Vasselli
STAFF WRITER

Columbia City Council voted Wednesday to make smoking in restaurants a thing of the past.

However, the city exempted bars from the smoking ban in the 4-3 vote, according to The State newspaper.

Some think the move might give USC's Healthy Carolina the momentum it needs to make campus completely smoke-free.

"When things like this happen in the city, it definitely doesn't hurt us," said Michelle Burcin, director of Healthy Carolina. "I don't see this having anything but a positive effect on us."

Burcin said she was disappointed that the council chose to exempt bars but that "a little is better than nothing."

Burcin said the ruling does not automatically make a smoke-free USC a guarantee.

"I don't see it turning us upside down and all of a sudden everyone

saying it needs to happen," Burcin said.

Burcin said she was disappointed that the council members did not follow the lead of Greenville City Council and set a date for the ban to begin.

"You could easily graduate before seeing this go into effect," Burcin said.

Local student hangouts such as Cool Beans, which has smoking and non-smoking sections, might feel the pinch.

Sara Nicholson, a manager at Cool Beans, said she doesn't know whether the ban will affect business.

"People sit in the smoking section, but I don't know if it'll piss people off or anything," Nicholson said.

Harrison Floyd, a first-year engineering student and regular Cool Beans customer, said he thinks it will hurt business for a while but that people will get used to it.

"I feel bad for the business itself, but people won't stop drinking coffee," Floyd said. "I think there is something to be said for smelling

SMOKING • 3



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Three USC students and a graduate assistant help sixth- and seventh-graders learn acting basics after school at Trustus Theatre.

USC students help sustain Trustus after-school program

Rebecca Wilson
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

For students of Gibbes Middle School, Trustus Theatre is not just a place of entertainment every Tuesday and Thursday, but also a place of learning.

Trustus is one of many places

open for after-school activities as part of the Afterschool Alliance, a three-year grant funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Kay Thigpen, co-founder of Trustus and co-coordinator of

TRUSTUS • 3

New e-mail system combats viruses, lack of storage space, spam

Next spring, all USC e-mail will go through program

Jamie Hudson
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC students will begin using a new e-mail system next spring that blocks spam and deletes messages after 60 days.

Technology Services will implement a new Microsoft-based e-mail system meant to combine university e-mail into one system,

said Kimberly South, media spokesperson for Technology Services.

Student mailboxes will have 50 megabytes of memory, while faculty and staff are allotted 300 MB, South said. Any message older than 60 days will be deleted.

The new system will feature a "spam management solution that

will automatically block known spam messages and quarantine messages that appear to be spam," South said. Quarantine messages will not dent the 50-MB mailbox limit.

Gamecock E-mail (GEM) has been experiencing problems caused by reaching its storage capacity, South said.

GEM's 210-gigabyte storage capacity has been increased to 280 GB, decreasing the "fullness"

threat from 98 percent to 69 percent, according to the GEM homepage.

Steve Wright, the technician who designed the GEM system, said GEM holds 297 GB of memory, 75 percent of which is full.

"There are some students who do not check mail and these messages add up and create a huge burden on the system that serves out e-mail," South said.

Messages are also backed up on a server called UTS, which increases

the needed memory, South said. E-mail postmasters contact students who are over the 50-MB limit.

There are about 65,000 student e-mail accounts and 15,000 faculty e-mail accounts, which includes affiliates, guests and sponsored retirees.

South said at least 75 people are "devoted to supporting student, faculty and staff e-mail systems" with at least 15 people working

E-MAIL • 2



Viewpoints

Chase Stoudenmire says we should forgo political parties for street gangs.

A4



The Mix

Lewis Black has parlayed an angry, incensed comedy style into a career of skewering pundits on both sides of the aisle. Bow down to the Badass of the Month.

A5

Classifieds..... **A8**
Crossword..... **A7**
Horoscopes..... **A7**
Opinion..... **A4**
Police Report..... **A2**

ON THE WEB



www.dailygamecock.com

Read online five days a week. "I've had lots of shoes."

CHURCH TALK



Aidan Zanders / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

John Allen, a reporter on Vatican affairs, speaks Thursday afternoon in Rutledge Chapel about the inadequacy and inaccuracy of the media's coverage of Church affairs.

State

High school exit exam passing rate increases

The percentage of South Carolina students who passed the high school exit exam on their first attempt rose this year, according to results released Thursday by the state Education Department.

Of the 47,000 10th grade students who took the test this spring, 75 percent passed the English and math sections. That's up from 72 percent last year.

"We're back on track by seeing this bump up," said state Education Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum.

She said she's pleased by the increase, "but I'm confident that we can improve on that."

She credited this year's rise to more students passing the math section, which includes algebra and geometry.

Students take the exit exam their second year of high school and must pass to graduate.

Those who don't pass both sections on their first try can retake the test multiple times.

South Carolina is among 26 states nationwide that require students pass an exit exam to receive a diploma.

Nation

Oil company settles death-related lawsuit

GALVESTON, Texas — BP PLC settled on Thursday the only remaining death-related lawsuit from the 2005 Texas City refinery blast that killed 15, wounded more than 170 and brought vast criticism on the oil company for lax safety measures at the facility.

Just as jury selection was beginning in what would have been the first civil case from the explosion to go to trial, a woman whose parents had been killed in the blast, and who had expressed eagerness to go to court, settled.

Eva Rowe, 22, walked away with an undisclosed amount, but the settlement also called for London-based BP to continue to release documents related to the case and to donate millions to schools and medical facilities, including one where victims were treated after the March 2005 explosion.

Leading up to the trial, Rowe steadfastly contended the case was more about focusing attention on the blast so such an accident would not happen again. Her parents, 48-year-old James Rowe and his wife, Linda Rowe, 47, of Hornbeck, La., were two of the 15 killed.

World

Iraqi health minister: 150,000 dead in war

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A stunning new death count emerged Thursday, as Iraq's health minister estimated 150,000 civilians have been killed in the war -- about three times previously accepted estimates.

Moderate Sunni Muslims, meanwhile, threatened to walk away from politics and pick up guns, while the Shiite-dominated government renewed pressure on the United States to unleash the Iraqi army and claimed it could crush violence in six months.

After Democrats swept to majorities in both houses of the U.S. Congress and Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld resigned, Iraqis appeared unsettled and seemed to sense the potential for an even bloodier conflict because future American policy is uncertain. As a result, positions hardened on both sides of the country's deepening sectarian divide.

Previous estimates of Iraq deaths held that 45,000-50,000 have been killed in the nearly 44-month-old conflict, according to partial figures from Iraqi institutions and media reports. No official count has ever been available.

Weather Forecast

TODAY

High 82
Low 53

SAT.

High 80
Low 45

SUN.

High 62
Low 41

MON.

High 63
Low 47

TUE.

High 72
Low 61

CAROLINA BRIEF

Saxophone quartet to play recital hall

The New Century Saxophone Quartet will be featured Saturday at the School of Music as part of the Southern Exposure New Music Series.

The concert will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the recital hall.

Revolutionary Etudes, written by composer David Lang, will premiere alongside Jacob ter Veldhuis' "Heartbreakers."

"Heartbreakers" features a multimedia arrangement for saxophone quartet with DVD projections.

Ter Veldhuis will attend the premiere and give a lecture at 2:30 p.m. in Room 210 of the School of Music.

"We're thrilled to host the New Century Saxophone Quartet and composer Jacob ter Veldhuis, who's a major musical figure in Europe," John Fitz Rogers, artistic director of Southern Exposure and associate professor of composition in the School of Music, told USC Media Relations. "It's an honor to feature the world premiere and American premiere of works by David Lang and ter Veldhuis. This is a significant event for the series."

The event is free and open to the public.

THIS WEEK USC

TODAY

Alpha Lambda Delta chapter meeting: 3 p.m. Russell House 315

SUNDAY

Chess Club Meeting: 5 p.m. RH Dining Room

MONDAY

Carolina/Clemson Blood Drive Kick-off: 10 a.m. Greene Street

Fraternity Council: 4 p.m. RH 315

Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance meeting: 7 p.m. RH 315

BGLSA meeting: 8 p.m. Gambrell 151

CRIME REPORT

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8

Defrauding hotel restaurant, disturbing schools, resisting arrest, 12:20 p.m.

Russell House, 1400 Greene St.

Police reported Bernard Sherman, 22, was arrested and jailed for carrying away food items, being chased around campus, disturbing classes and running across traffic from the officer.

Responding officer: R. Baker

THURSDAY, NOV. 9

Simple possession of marijuana, 12:55 a.m.

Intersection of Sumter and Wheat streets

Police reported Christopher Hart, 19, was arrested for having marijuana in his vehicle.

Responding officer: J.M. Harrelson

Disturbing schools, 3:45 a.m.

Pendleton Street Garage, 1501 Pendleton St.

Police reported Andrew Jolly, 19, Sean Kissinger, 19, and Michael Smith, 20, were each arrested and jailed for having a pellet gun fight in the garage.

Responding officer: J.M. Simmons

Bush, Pelosi discuss cooperation over lunch

Jennifer Loven

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Bush and House Speaker-to-be Nancy Pelosi, perhaps the biggest loser and winner on Election Day, pledged over lunch Thursday to bury the hatchet and cooperate when possible.

At the White House, where Bush had invited Pelosi for lunch, presidential aides joked that there was no crow on the menu for Bush to eat.

Bush ate a little anyway, and he saluted Pelosi, not only as Tuesday's victor but as the first woman who will ascend to the position of

House speaker, next in line to the presidency after the vice president.

"The elections are now behind us, and the congresswoman's party won," Bush said.

"But the challenges still remain. And therefore, we're going to work together to address those challenges in a constructive way."

Said Pelosi, like Bush all smiles: "We both extended the hand of friendship, of partnership to solve the problems facing our country."

She was accompanied by Rep. Steny Hoyer, the House's second-ranking Democrat.

FILM • Continued from 1

related aspect," Miles said.

Scarpo said his main point was to encourage students to see what they can do to prevent hate and prejudice.

"Many students do not realize how large a part hate plays in the everyday life," Scarpo said. "Each minute, a college student in the United States hears a racial slur, or witnesses a derogatory racial action."

Scarpo said prevention starts with education.

"Education about hate crimes is crucial, because it is most important that history does not repeat itself."

The discussion following the documentary centered on the nature of hate crimes and related issues on college campuses.

Scarpo asked the audience where they thought hate came from, and many responded that they felt hate came from fear, among other factors.

Brooke Warren, a first-year nursing student, said a person's upbringing adds to hate.

"In most cases, those who grew up with racist parents are also racist," Warren said. "Children learn by example, and by raising accepting children, we can eliminate hate

crimes such as the recent murders involving the Amish community."

Startling statistics such as the fact that 58.5 percent of crimes in 1997 were race-related, or that crimes against gays and lesbians had risen 260 percent since 1996, put hate crime into perspective, Scarpo said.

Aimed toward college students, the 37-minute documentary focused specifically on hate crimes that have occurred in recent years.

Using verbally graphic language, as well as family interviews, three well-known crimes were profiled: James Byrd Jr., the disabled black man dragged to his death in Jasper, Texas; Matthew Shepherd, a homosexual college student who was beaten, tied to a fence and left to die; and the young girl at Columbine High who was shot for her belief in God.

Pennsylvania native Scarpo has 20 years experience as a producer and actor in Hollywood, and has worked on major films such as the "Shawshank Redemption."

The documentary has won 35 film festival awards.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

E-MAIL • Continued from 1

within UTS with the e-mail accounts.

Wright said the current e-mail system has been active for four years.

During these past years, the system's storage capacity has been increased, including a recent growth

from 210 GB to 280 GB in mail folder storage.

Of 113,000 mailboxes, about half are used, Wright said. About 1,150 people are over the 50-MB quota and about 400 are using twice that amount, Wright said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

BRAND NEW STUDENT HOUSING COMMUNITY

For a sneak peek at what is coming to Columbia...

Join us for a **FREE** bus ride to tour one of our townhomes in Statesboro, GA on November 11, 2006. We are giving **FREE** lunch to each person traveling with us, as well as, giving **\$100 CASH** at move-in if you decide to live with us next year after touring!

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Panelists laud, decry media’s religion slant

Five panelists tackled questions about religion’s place in the media Thursday in Rutledge College.

The discussion marked the end of events for the eighth annual Joseph Cardinal Bernardin lecture, presented by Vatican correspondent John Allen.

Brad Warthen, editorial page editor for The State newspaper, moderated and said the media is “clueless” about matters of science, military and religion and often covers religion like sports and politics.

Allen, CNN’s senior Vatican analyst, said most of the Vatican’s activities aren’t considered news.

“In our business we define news as something that hasn’t happened before,” said Allen, adding that the Church is 2,000 years old.

Allen recounted a story from a conference in Fort Worth, Texas, that he said embodied the problems in newsrooms with regard to religion. A newspaper’s religion reporter was also the beat reporter for rodeos.

“Religion is not considered a serious news beat,” Allen said.

Allen said that newsrooms get what’s going on at the Vatican but do not understand or report why.

Cecile Holmes, an assistant professor at USC’s journalism school, countered Allen and said 65 percent of religion reporters belong to a church or synagogue.

Holmes argued that religion is just as significant as education, the military or other institutions.

The Very Reverend Philip Linder said he’s not sure if the media wants the real story.

“I’m not sure the media is always interested in the essentials,” Linder said. “I often find that often the stories that The State wants from me are those that focus on the non-essentials.”

Allen said the Church is just as much at fault as the media.

“We tend to be extraordinarily inept at telling our own story,” Allen said.

Allen challenged the audience to think of themselves as church spokesmen because they “know when the Church is being misrepresented.”

Elizabeth Miller, a 2002 religious studies graduate, said if she wants information on church matters, she’ll go directly to the source.

“I’m not comfortable reading about my religion in media outlets,” Miller said. “I don’t know if the traditional media outlets are where religion should be.”

Some books Allen has written, including “All the Pope’s Men” and “Opus Dei,” were on sale at the symposium.

Allen has served as the correspondent for the National Catholic Reporter since 1999.

The department of religious studies has offered the lecture annually since its inauguration in 1999, according to the College of Arts and Sciences Web site.

— Jackie Alexander

TRUSTUS ● Continued from 1

the after-school program, wrote the grant for Trustus to be included in the after-school program along with EdVenture, Riverbanks Zoo and the Columbia Museum of Art.

In the second year of the grant, Thigpen said she is pleased with the results.

“It’s good just to get these kids excited about something other than television, and if they learn a few skills along the way, we are happy,” Thigpen said.

As part of the program, three USC students headed by a graduate help teach sixth- and seventh-graders theatre and acting basics.

Summer Bender, a third-year public relations student, got involved with Trustus through the young-adult theatre group Armchair three years ago. She now handles most of Trustus’ public relations, as well as working with the children.

Bender said she has seen improvement in children as they become more involved in theatre.

“Some of the kids come from an environment where creativity is shunned, but

here we encourage them to be creative,” Bender said. “It’s such an open atmosphere for them, and they love it.”

Bender said when the students first arrived they wanted to do skits about fights and violence, but as the semester progressed they discovered other ways to handle situations.

“They are learning the importance of communication, with and without words, and even that making fun of themselves can be rewarding,” Bender said. “We laugh a lot here.”

Joe Laney and Martha Hearn, members of Armchair, help out with the after-school program.

Laney, a fifth-year theatre student and master electrician at Trustus, said he appreciates Trustus opening up new roads for the adolescents.

“I like being able to open their minds to discover new ways of using their body and voice and showing them something else besides what they get at home every day,” Laney said. “We let them know that if they want a way out, they have a way out here.”

Hearn, a second-year theatre student, works with

the Trustus program because of her love of theatre and her desire to teach.

“It’s pretty much instant gratification,” Hearn said. “They have this talent you would never think of, it comes out of nowhere, and they are good.”

E.G. Heard, who graduated from USC in 2005 with a theatre degree, is production manager of Trustus Theatre. Heard is the primary teacher of the after-school program and created the curriculum.

Heard recently attended a conference with the Knight Foundation about the after-school program and was commended for its success at Trustus.

“The evaluators were very impressed by our innovative program that did not just focus on acting, but on the entire theatre,” Heard said.

The curriculum for the program is divided into three parts.

In the first part students learn basic acting skills by playing improvisational games, similar to those in the show “Whose Line is it, Anyway?”

During the second part guest speakers are asked to talk to the children, and in

the third part students plan their own play.

After writing the script, creating their own characters and building the set, the children perform the final project for other program participants, faculty members and important Columbia citizens.

This semester’s production is “Cool Off: A Community Divided,” the story of a school divided into groups such as nerds and jocks who learn the meaning of community in a party hosted by a space alien.

Heard said the students were the ones who suggested a message of the play.

“I think that is a really big step for sixth- and seventh-graders,” Heard said.

Uneka Ingram, a seventh-grader at Gibbes Middle School, said her favorite part of the play was the ending.

“I like the big party at the end when everyone comes together,” Ingram said.

Ingram said she enjoyed coming to the theatre during the week and learned a lot from it.

“It makes me not be as shy,” Ingram said.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

SMOKING ● Continued from 1

like a chimney when you come out of here, but I’ll get over that quickly.”

Many students like the ban, even in its limited form.

Lucy Dinkins, a first-year piano performance student, said she thinks the ban will help people stop smoking.

“It’ll help stop casual smoking because you’ll have to go out of your way to do it,” Dinkins said.

Student Body President Tommy Preston, a fourth-year political science student, said he thinks the ban will only help students and won’t hurt businesses.

“I was excited to see that they made a step forward,” Preston said. “This is something we’ve been looking forward to for a long time.”

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecocknews@gwm.sc.edu

HOLD ON, HOLD ON ...

According to The State newspaper, there are some exceptions to the smoking ban:

Any establishment that receives 85 percent of its profits from alcohol sales private clubs with tax-exempt status

Theatres that have a performer smoking on stage as part of the performance

Designated motel and hotel smoking rooms

Tobacco stores

Religious ceremonies

Medical facilities where smoking cessation classes are held



ATTENTION

Faculty, Staff, Students and Spouses of Students

FLU SHOTS ARE AVAILABLE

at the Thomson Student Health Center

Monday - Friday
8:30 am - 11:30 am and 1:30 pm until 4:30 pm
on the third floor of TSHC Room 311
for appointments call 777-9511
*Walk-ins will be served on a work in basis.

Everyone **MUST** bring their USC ID Card to receive a flu shot.

Students	\$10
Faculty/Staff	\$20
Spouses of Students	\$10

Spouses of Students **MUST** bring their USC Spousal ID Card.

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If you contribute to the Family Fund, you **MUST** have your Family Fund card present with your USC ID Card in order to receive your free flu shot.

For your convenience more flu clinics in locations around campus to be announced soon. Visit our website at www.sa.sc.edu/shs for more information



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IN OUR OPINION

USC should imitate Swamp's Spurrier love

Gamecock fans in Gainesville on Saturday need to take notes about how to respect their elders.

For the first time ever in the Swamp, Florida fans won't be rooting for Steve Spurrier — but the memory of the Gators' 1996 national championship and 12 years of near-perfect football haven't slipped fans' minds.

Most will cheer, others will boo, but no one will forget that the Ol' Ball Coach was responsible for lifting Florida out of a scandalous slump and onto cloud nine.

Too bad Carolina fans have such a problem minding their P's and Q's.

Too bad Carolina fans have such a problem minding their P's and Q's. Lou Holtz, who led USC to two consecutive Outback Bowl victories and brought a championship-winning attitude to the Gamecocks' once-hapless organization, is criticized, booed and burned in effigy whenever his name is mentioned around campus. Some fans have given him the "Loose Bolts" moniker that Clemsonites loved to toss around during his six years at the helm.

Like the bottle-throwing rednecks in the student section, some people have zero class.

Understandably, when a former player or coach returns to his former stomping grounds as an opponent, fans are rooting for his downfall. Previous accolades don't matter when a legend is standing in the way of bigger, better things for his old school.

But Holtz isn't taking the field with another team. He's an ESPN desk jockey who picks Carolina over most teams any day of the week — and he'll probably pick us to beat Urban Meyer's squad because he sees the potential roaming the sidelines. He's one of Spurrier and the Gamecocks' biggest cheerleaders.

And still students rant. Maybe they weren't around to rip down the goalposts after shutting out New Mexico State.

Bring pen and paper to the stands, Carolina fans, and realize that even though some Floridians are booing, they only wish the best for Spurrier. If only all of us could say the same about Holtz.

CORRECTIONS

If you see an error in today's paper, we want to know about it. E-mail us at gamecockopinions@gwm.sc.edu

About The Daily Gamecock

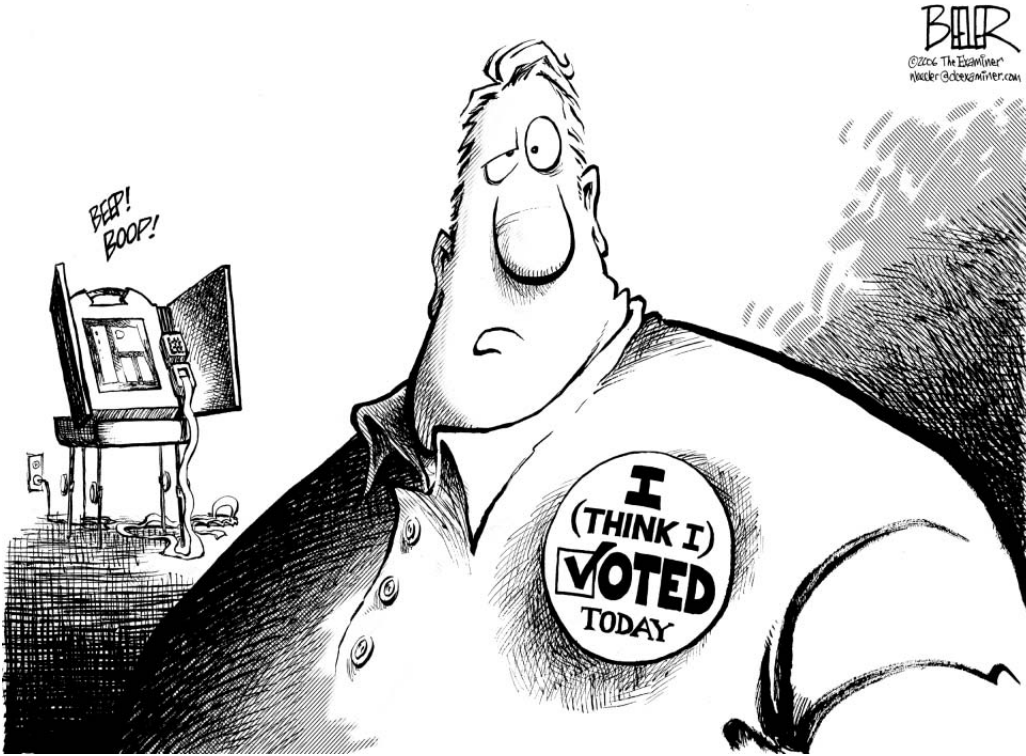
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THE DA SToudenMIRE CODE

Americans could unite as street gang

Current political parties divide people, ignore recent Britney divorce



CHASE SToudenMIRE
Third-year history student

Big news this week. We've known it was coming for the past two years. The media has been covering developments in the story all along, all leading up to the big event only three days ago: Britney Spears filed for divorce from Kevin Federline.

Shocking, I know. Once the dust settles from the announcement that absolutely nobody saw coming, people may recall that we also happened to have an election this week which, although not nearly as important as Britney Spears' relationship status, is also a matter of minor concern, especially considering what has happened to the balance of power in the government.

Before Tuesday, the Republicans controlled everything, and half the country hated the other half. Now, the Democrats control Congress, yet half the country still hates the other half. Something about this system doesn't

seem quite right.

Last week, I argued that we should disband Student Government in favor of an absolute monarchy on campus, putting the Home-coming King in charge. (That should be your first hint that you should never take my columns seriously.) This week, I'm taking my revolutionary movements national.

If we want to get things done, we need to pull together. Since democracy results only in us hating each other, we need to try something new. But what kind of organization keeps everyone together and on the same side regardless of the circumstances?

Gangs! That's right, gangs. If we drop the whole "country" thing and just become a gang, everyone's on the same team!

Think about it. Most of the framework is already set up. We have a flag. We've picked our colors. We have plenty of theme

songs.

In a democracy, only the president gets to ride in Air Force One. If we were all one great 300-million-member gang, Xzibit would pimp ALL of our rides, not only the president's!

Consider the implications on national security. Bearing arms would no longer be a right — it would be mandatory. When one of us fights, we all fight — and every single professional wrestler in the country is armed and on your side!

No more internal division! Instead of the North fighting the South or Democrats fighting Republicans, we would all be unified against our common enemies, such as North Korea, Iran and Canada.

The advantages here are clear. Call your congressman and tell him that he's fired — then teach him the new words to the "Star Spangled Bling-Blinger." Remind him that anyone who resists will be locked in a dungeon with Britney Spears and forced to listen to Kevin Federline's new album for all eternity.

Gay marriage assault hurts everyone

Amendment 1 passage goes after responsible homosexual parents



MONIQUE CUNIN
Third-year print journalism student

Everyone is arguing over whether the gay and lesbian population should be allowed to get married. On one side, the religious right screamed no because they believe the Bible condemns homosexuality.

On the other end of the spectrum are people who believe that marriage is a union between two consenting adults who love each other regardless of their gender or sexual preferences. South Carolina voted Tuesday to only recognize marriage between a man and a woman. The ruling will affect not only the lives of gay and lesbian couples but also those of their children.

The religious right argues that gay couples cannot make good parents, but they do not take into account the couples who are already parents. Some people adopt kids and others bring them into a relationship from a previous marriage. The question everyone should be asking themselves is not

whether gay marriage is right or wrong, but rather what we, as a society, want to happen to the children who are involved in these relationships.

They did not decide to have two mommies or two daddies any more than a child chooses to have divorced parents. The "Bible belt" has chosen to punish these children for the actions of adults.

The passage of Amendment 1 Tuesday was intended to protect the sanctity of an institution that celebrities and western society has began to seem like a temporary life choice in the last 30 years. Maybe before quickie weddings like the one Britney Spears and some guy had a few years ago, marriage was a holy institution.

But now it is not.

One can go on a drug-induced binge to a chapel in Las Vegas and get married if they choose and have it annulled the next day. They can also take

the more popular route and get a divorce five or six years down the line.

Many columnists have wrongly jumped to the conclusion that allowing men to marry other men or women to marry other women will lead to people wanting to marry their dogs and under-age children.

As it stands, for all legal intents and purposes, a marriage certificate is a legal contract between two consenting adults. Minors can't sign an agreement to take out a home loan or a marriage contract without parental consent. Animals and plants can't even write their names, much less sign a piece of paper.

Marriage is a legal institution between two consenting adults and will always be that way.

Everyone in the United States will always find something to argue about. However, the fact that adults like to argue and jump to a conclusion that defies common sense should not be used to justify passing legislation and making irresponsible decisions that have the potential to severely harm the well-being of any child.

First-time social dates as terrifying as real ones

Despite some butterflies, taking initiative to meet new people will pay off

Last week I went on a first date ... with a girl. And then we went back to my apartment and had a pillow fight and tickled each other. Alright,

now that I've got your attention, (well, at least the male readers' attention), let me further clarify.

First of all, I'm 100 percent heterosexual. Second of all, it wasn't really a "date" in the

traditional sense. And, well, I lied about the pillow fight and tickling completely.

I went for coffee with someone who I work with, and while it was no more of a "date" than getting coffee with my mother would be, it still involved all of the awkwardness and nervousness that a first date does.

Going out with someone you work with for the first time can be a pretty anxiety-ridden experience. Making the leap from strictly co-workers to possible friends outside of the workplace can be tough, and in my mind, carries all the weight and apprehension that dating someone new does.

Having never asked someone on a romantic date, I can't say whether the nervous butterflies I felt asking my coworker out were of the same species, but making that first move — suggesting we meet outside of the "office" — was very nerve-racking.

What if they think you're weird for asking? What if they're one of those people who likes to keep their work life and social life completely separate? What if every conversation you've had at work that you viewed as friendly, they viewed as appeasing their annoying coworker?

Thankfully, in my situation, she said she'd love to and we met for coffee. And at least with a coworker, you can usually skip that "first date" occurrence that's plagued by awkwardness (the who's-going-to-pay dance); it's obvious that you each pay your own way, just like friends.

The next worry is conversation. Sure you're good at bitching about obnoxious co-workers, forming coalitions against mean bosses, complaining about pointless on-the-job protocol and long hours, but does your commonality stop there? Will you be left with nothing but painful silence?

But the worst part of all is worrying that if your outing goes badly, it will ruin the nice inner-office friendship the two of you had beforehand.

We chatted about work, friends and Gamecock football. Work is more bearable when it's done with co-workers who are friends.

Just like a "real" first date, the initial awkwardness of a first co-worker date will most likely be worth it in the end. She may not have tickled my fancy how the some of the male readers hoped, but I am tickled by how well it went.



LINDSEY DENNERLEIN
Third-year psychology student

Badass of the month: Lewis Black

stats from wikipedia.com

Born:

Aug. 30, 1948

Wanted to be:

a playwright

Occupation:
stand-up
comedian

Religion:
Jewish

Hometown:

Silver Spring, Md.

Style of humor:

sarcastic, profane,
prone to fits of anger



Favorite hobby:

nervous
breakdowns

Influences:

George Carlin,
Lenny Bruce,
Richard Pryor,
Lily Tomlin,
Bob Newhart,
Shelley Berman

Criminal record:

arrested in 2000 with
fellow comedian

Jim Norton for his
involvement in “The
Naked Teen Voyeur Bus”

Found his calling when:

he did stand-up before his
plays were performed on stage

Future plans:

host of his own show “Red State
Diaries” to air on Comedy Central

Lives in:

Hell’s Kitchen, New York,
N.Y.

Claim to fame:

“Back in Black”
segments on “The
Daily Show”

Favorite
word:

f—k

Web site:

www.lewisblack.net

Big Break:

“Comedy Central
Presents” special
in 1998

Education:

Spring Brook High
School (Silver Spring,
Md.), University of North
Carolina at Chapel Hill
(Pi Lambda Phi member),
Yale School of Drama
(earned Master’s of Fine
Arts in 1977)

Recent appearances:

HBO standup specials
“Black on Broadway” and
“Lewis Black: Red, White
and Screwed,” small part
on “Law & Order: Special
Victims Unit,” voice of
Norbert in “The Happy
Elf”

The Style Doctor

Tending to Your Fashion Wounds

Justin Fenner
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

Dear Style Doctor,

To tuck or not to tuck: that is the question. I have a lot of shirts that I just don't know what to do with sometimes, so I mostly leave them out. But I'm starting to get some flak from some friends of mine for never tucking anything in. Are there ways to know when I'm supposed to tuck something in, or does it even matter?

— *Perplexed in Pac Sun*

Dear Perplexed,

There's no need for confusion! Whether or not you tuck in your shirt does matter, and there's a very simple set of rules to remember when putting your shirts on in the morning. The two things you have to consider are construction and occasion.

How the hem of the shirt is made determines where it's supposed to go. If you're wearing a long-sleeved dress or sport shirt (dress shirts don't have pockets over the left side) that is longer in the front and back than it is on the sides, the shirt is meant to be tucked in. If the shirt has a straight hem all the way around, then it's OK to tuck in. And while you can tuck in a polo shirt whenever you deem it necessary, the shirts that have a longer back panel are the ones meant to go inside your pants.

Where you're going and what you're doing while wearing the shirt is also another big factor to

consider. Common sense and basic rules of conduct should always apply in these situations. For more serious occasions you'll want to tuck your shirt in. If you're just going to class or somewhere casual, leave it out. It's obvious and overstated, but tucking in your shirt conveys a sense of being buttoned up and put together, which translates to being respectful. Leaving your shirttails out instantly screams relaxed and casual, and situations arise where it's better to avoid that kind of message.

One final thing you also may want to consider is what industry professionals have begun referring to as "the pouf." Many dress shirts fit wonderfully in the neck and sleeves but have enough materials in the side panels to make, well, another shirt. The material poufs out on the sides and, in the worst cases, can make you look larger than you really are, and a little dressed down to boot. Thankfully, most labels are offering slim-fit models of classic shirts, which help to eliminate the extra fabric. Small details like this are the difference between being appropriately dressed and well dressed.

I hope that clears everything up for you, but remember, style is what you make it, so please make it good!

Having fashion trouble? E-mail the Style Doctor today at uscstyledoc@gmail.com.



Special to THE DAILY GAMECOCK

"MXC" combines the same wild challenges of the 1980s Japanese show "Takeshi's Castle" with overdubbed humor.

Japanese game show gets American revamp

"MXC"
Spike TV
★★★★ out of ☆☆☆☆

Colin Jones
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

For more than three years, Spike TV, commonly seen as taking a more masculine approach to television programming, has twisted the unusual Japanese game show "Takeshi's Castle" into a hilariously amusing concoction known as "Most Extreme Elimination Challenge" or "MXC."

This year the comedy continues as the network rolls out season five of the overdubbing masterpiece.

According to Spike TV, "MXC" was originally a

television show in Japan that ran from 1986 to 1989 under the name "Takeshi's Castle" where contestants took on difficult physical challenges. Spike TV overdubbed the original broadcasts with comedic commentary and voiceovers for the commentators and contestants.

The fifth season of "MXC" returns in all its stupidity and blazing glory with dimwitted hosts Kenny Blankenship and Vic Romano dressed in full Japanese garb, giving their demented commentary on the plights of the mismatched groups competing.

In tonight's episode, "MXC" puts a humorous

take on religion and sexuality by pitting the group Religious Rights against the Gay Rights group in games such as Amazing Grace, Sinkers and Floaters, and the Rotating Surfboard of Death.

The contestants run through a series of events while the commentators make scathing remarks about themselves and the performance of the contestants.

In addition to making jokes about homosexuals, the show's hosts mock certain individuals in the Religious Rights such as the Rev. Jerry Falwell and conservative commentator Ann Coulter.

The obstacle courses prove

to be equally as hilarious as the commentary.

In the Rotating Surfboard of Death, players must stay on a narrow surfboard while jumping over objects, all while suspended over a pit of murky sludge. Most of the time, contestants fall in a comedic and painful fashion that results in them slamming face-first into the grime that lies below.

The fifth season of "MXC" stays the course in its style of ridiculously offensive and amusing wit and truly provides the viewer with a sense of outrageous fulfillment.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu



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Don't get panties in wad over washing

Tammy M. Smith
MCT Campus

Laundry is laundry, right? Like taking the garbage out or scrubbing the tub, it's an unavoidable chore, one most people like to get over and done with.

But there are simple ways to make the chore less troublesome. Here are some products that ease the effort:

Downy Ball: This classic laundry room helper lets you add liquid fabric softener (it can be any brand of concentrated softener) to the wash (in a top-loading washer) with zero timing responsibility. Fill the ball to the line with liquid softener, close the ball and toss it in with your clothes. The softener is released at the right time, so you don't have to rush to add it right when the good moment comes in that movie or your team is

about to score.

Lingerie bags: These mesh bags are an easy way to wash delicates along with the rest of your laundry. That goes for sweaters and wispy outerwear as well as lingerie. They're also a way to keep socks together in the washer and the dryer.

Shout Color Catcher Sheets: "Don't wash brights with whites." You probably learned that rule of laundry years ago. But what about those middle-of-the-road colors? Or how about those new black pants? Should you wash them by themselves, or with your jeans? These sheets help make those decisions a bit easier.

When in doubt, pop one in with a load of wash (reasonably separated, don't put those new black pants in with whites, for example) and set the appropriate water temperature. Be amazed by

what dyes that innocuous sheet picks up.

Lint roller: This handy item isn't just for the laundry room. A great way to remove pet hair from clothes (and easier to manipulate than a fist wrapped with tape), it also lifts pet hair from upholstered furniture. Realsimple.com also notes it can remove dust from lampshades.

At-home dry cleaning kits: These can be a solution when you don't have time to make the trips to drop off and pick up. With these kits, you put the clothes to be cleaned in a special bag with a cleaning sheet; the filled bag is put in the dryer.

Most of these kits are not intended for use with leather, suede, velvet or fur, or with items that are too bulky to fit loosely in the bag.

Comments on this story? E-mail gamecockfeatures@gwm.sc.edu

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Wrist bands will be needed for access to the lower level. These will be given out at 4:30PM on the day of the show

Crossword

Edited by Wayne Robert Williams

11/10/06

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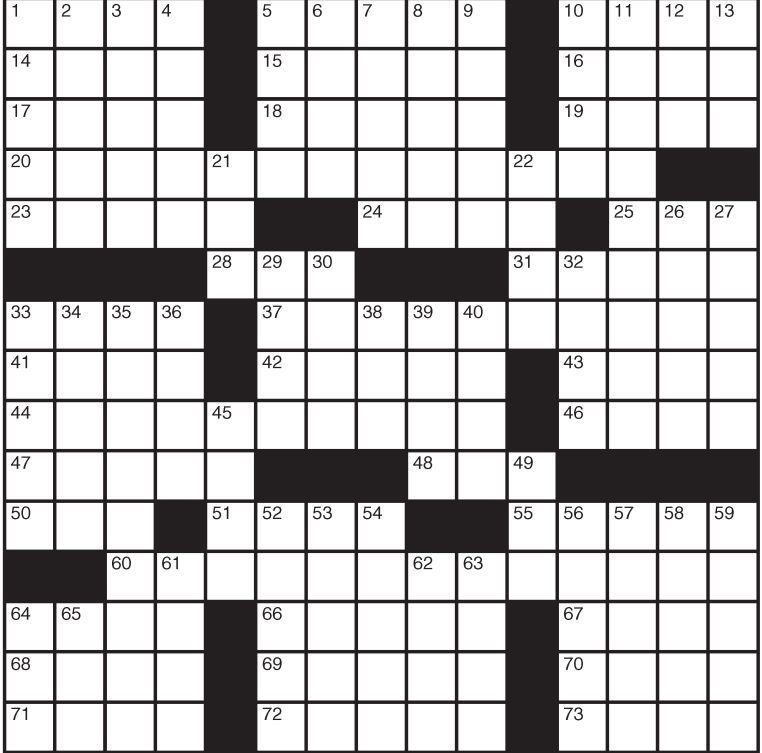
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Rotate rapidly
 - 5 Lady's address
 - 10 Runner Zatopek
 - 14 Fey of "Mean Girls"
 - 15 Coeur d'___, ID
 - 16 Tribal legend
 - 17 Oil grp.
 - 18 Prim and proper
 - 19 "Lonely Boy" singer
 - 20 Cop's uncertainties?
 - 23 Locations
 - 24 Streamlined swimmer
 - 25 Actor Bannen
 - 28 Rocky crag
 - 31 Debate
 - 33 Church area
 - 37 Philanthropist's uncertainties?
 - 41 Nullify
 - 42 Western event
 - 43 Pound or Frost
 - 44 Judge's uncertainty?
 - 46 Goes astray
 - 47 Courtroom employee
 - 48 Big-D pro
 - 50 Black gold
 - 51 Gershwin and Levin
 - 55 Musician Shaw
 - 60 Congressman's uncertainties?
 - 64 List of options
 - 66 Legendary king of Phrygia
 - 67 Med. school course
 - 68 Hymn ending
 - 69 Old saying
 - 70 Pitchfork part
 - 71 Fuel-line element
 - 72 Mexicali money
 - 73 Hot shots

- DOWN**
- 1 Greek porticos

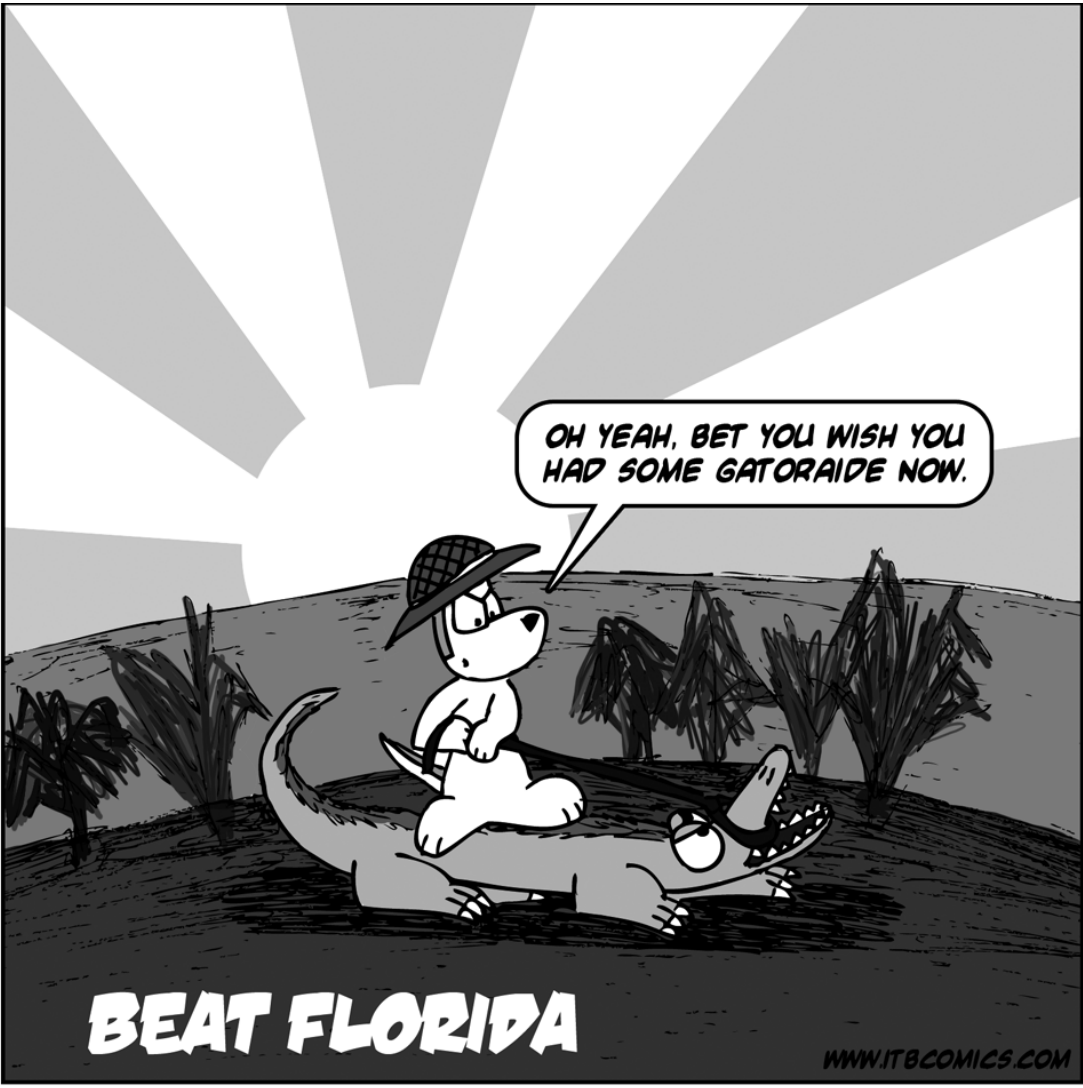


Solutions from Thursday's crossword

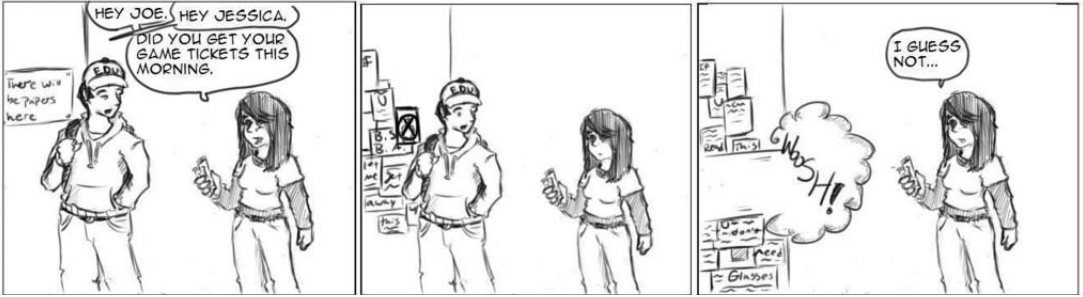
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J	A	C	K	O		L	A	N		T	E	R	N	
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A	U	R	A	L		A	H	A		E	N	T	E	R
W	E	N	D	T		P	L	Y		S	T	A	R	K

- letters
- 39 H.S. math class
 - 40 Hebrides island
 - 45 Coconut fiber
 - 49 Large vessel
 - 52 Do another land survey
 - 53 Word to the audience
 - 54 Soft drinks
 - 56 Rope on the range
 - 57 Quinine water
 - 58 Nonsensical
 - 59 ___ Park, CO
 - 61 Old Norse inscription
 - 62 Lake in Spain
 - 63 Manipulates
 - 64 ___-jongg
 - 65 Comic Philips

Inside The Box ♦ By Marlowe Leverette / The Daily Gamecock



Whiteboard ♦ By Bobby Sutton / The Daily Gamecock



Welcome to Falling Rock National Park ♦ By Josh Shalek



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Sudoku

By Michael Mephram

11/10/06

4					8			1
		3			2	6		9
	5							
	6			3	5			
	4	1	7		9	3	5	
			1	8			6	
							9	
8		6	4			7		
9			8					3

Level 1 2 3 4

How to Play
Complete the grid so each row, column AND 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. Check online at dailygamecock.com for previous puzzles

Solutions to Thursday's Sudoku

7	5	1	4	2	6	8	3	9
3	2	6	9	7	8	4	5	1
9	8	4	1	3	5	2	7	6
8	1	3	7	6	9	5	2	4
5	4	2	8	1	3	6	9	7
6	9	7	5	4	2	1	8	3
2	6	8	3	9	4	7	1	5
1	3	5	6	8	7	9	4	2
4	7	9	2	5	1	3	6	8

HOROSCOPES

ARIES The reason you do what you said you would is that you said you would. A nice fringe benefit is that you can become wealthy doing this, too. **TAURUS** Don't flinch. The tougher you are, the more likely they are to turn and run. **GEMINI** By now you should know which things you've been doing are a big waste of time, and which ones aren't. Avoid repetition and downright uselessness. **CANCER** You have good sense, but you also have awesome intuitive powers. Put those to work and you'll know instinctively exactly

what to do. Then, do it. **LEO** Follow through with promises made. Don't offer to do any more until this stuff is out of the way. **VIRGO** Everything falls together because you've been listening. Others have told you their troubles, and then figured out their own answers. **LIBRA** Remind people of favors they've promised, and hold them to their word. It's not rude to request that others follow through; it's good for them. **SCORPIO** You're seen in a very good light now. Strut your stuff, and increase your natural advantage.

SAGITTARIUS It's important to keep a secret, or you'll lose one of the biggest treasures. **CAPRICORN** You're very assertive. You're also smart enough to listen attentively. Encourage somebody else to be assertive, and you'll have a wonderful time. **AQUARIUS** You do very well under pressure. You're inspired to come up with ideas you've never thought before, and neither has anyone else. **PISCES** Go ahead and let other people know what you've been thinking about. They won't consider it as weird as you feared they would. They'll like it.

the scene at USC

Today
FAIR STREET, NASTIES, BECAUSE OF THIS, KENNEDY CURSE: New Brookland Tavern, 122 State St. 5 p.m. doors \$5 over 21 / \$8 under 21

ART BAR PLAYERS: Art Bar, 1211 Park St.

IPOP! WITH WUSC DJ PETER ADOLPHSON: Art Bar 11 p.m.-2 a.m.

ERIC SKELTON & THE HOMECOMING KINGS, AUSTIN CRANE: Jammin' Java, 1530 Main St. 9 p.m. doors. \$5.

EVENT: Description, location.

NOVEMBERFEST'S LOCAL SHOWCASE FEATURING HEART MONSTER BRAVE HORATIUS, THIS MACHINE IS ME, LE HORLA, DEVON WOLFE, SHALLOW PALACE: The (art) Garage, 728 S Edisto Ave. FREE SHOW

Saturday
FOXES THAT FIGHT, MALADROIT MAFIA, THE FAD, VEARA: New Brookland Tavern 5 p.m. doors \$5 over



21 / \$8 under 21
HALO STEREO, KILCOY: New Brookland Tavern 9:30 p.m. doors \$5 over 21 / \$7 under 21

THE VOID (BLACK SABBATH TRIBUTE) WITH THE GODS OF MARS, SIGNIFICANT OTHERS: Art Bar \$3 cover

CAREY SIMS: Jammin' Java 9 p.m. doors Pay What You

Want Show

NOVEMBERFEST: VENICE IS SINKING, CITIFIED: The (art) Garage

Sunday
DEATH BLOW, CHARGE THE MOUND, THE FIRE THE FLOOD, PRAY FOR WAR, BITE THE CURB: New Brookland Tavern 6 p.m. doors \$5 over 21 / \$8 under 21

A word for the wise

posthaste [pohst-HEYST] (adv.) — with all possible speed

Ex: "Look, John, I'm going to need that cupcake delivered to me posthaste. I've had a craving for Duncan Hines all day."

SEC Slugfest

Florida's golden boys go head to head in the Swamp

FRIDAY FOOTBALL
BLITZ



Jonathan Hillyard
SENIOR WRITER

Losing was one thing, but this was unbearable. After watching his second-ranked Florida team lose by 2 points to bitter-rival Tennessee, ending what looked like a season in which his Gators would play for another national title, Steve Spurrier walked off Florida Field for the last time. Or so we thought.

On Saturday, nearly five years later, Spurrier will return to Gainesville to go toe to toe with the mighty Gators that were once his team.

A Florida alumnus and 1966 Heisman trophy winner, Spurrier was welcomed with open arms in 1990 after coaching at Duke for three seasons. The Florida program was going through hard times and had just been placed on probation. Nine wins had been the most ever achieved

Mitchell: Under center again

After strong showing against Arkansas, quarterback looks to beat Gators twice

Michael Aguilar
STAFF WRITER

There is going to be a return this weekend, an almost homecoming of sorts for Gamecock football — and it has absolutely nothing to do with USC football coach Steve Spurrier.

Spurrier is returning to his old stomping grounds at the University of Florida, but the South Carolina football team is more concerned about a different return this weekend, as is the Gator defense.

The return of junior quarterback Blake Mitchell to the football field is the talk of this Saturday's 3:30 p.m. matchup on CBS. Mitchell returns in time to hold onto his title as the only Carolina quarterback to defeat the University of Florida since 1939.

After six weeks of exile, Spurrier gave Mitchell his chance for redemption against the Arkansas Razorbacks on Saturday. Mitchell came into the game in the second half and nearly led the Gamecocks back from a two-touchdown

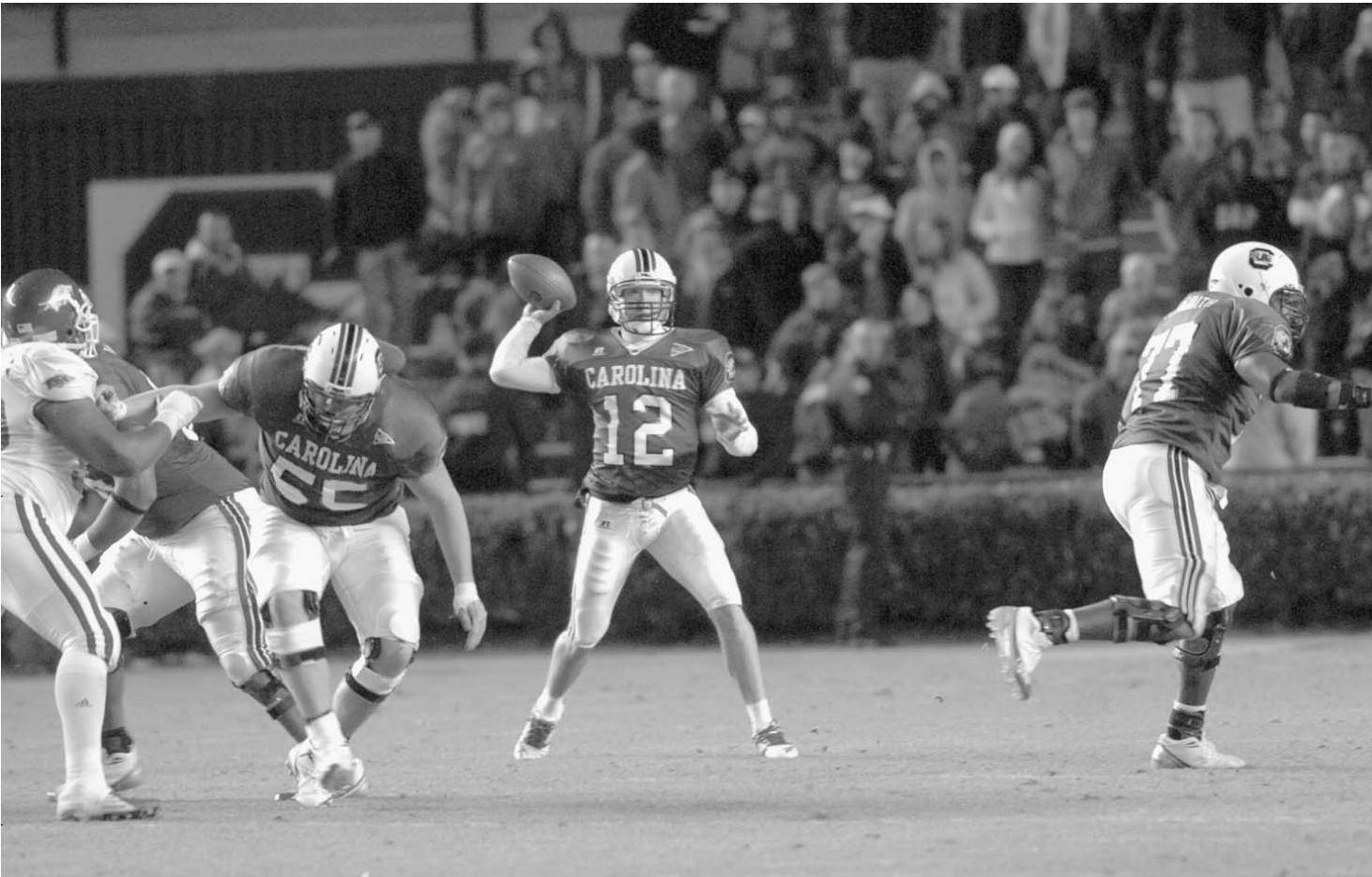
deficit, only to throw an interception on the last drive of Carolina's last-gasp effort.

"Blake Mitchell played as good a half of football, except for one throw, as any quarterback I've ever coached," Spurrier said.

Early this season the offensive line was in disarray and Mitchell did not have time to throw the ball. The lack of a run game and pass blocking caused dismal offensive numbers for the Gamecocks while Mitchell was at the helm.

Carolina could only muster up 15 points against Mississippi State. The Bulldogs are giving up 26 points per game at this point in the season. Mitchell's starting career this season also boasts leading the only team in the SEC East to not beat Georgia this season. Not only did the Gamecocks not beat the Bulldogs — they did not score a single point.

But with the offensive line's improved play, Mitchell led the Carolina offense on two long scoring drives. The O-line held a strong Arkansas defensive front off,



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC quarterback Black Mitchell prepares to throw the ball during last week's 26-20 loss to the Arkansas Razorbacks at Williams-Brice Stadium. Mitchell could split time with mobile quarterback Syvelle Newton against the Florida Gators.

and Mitchell was not sacked once.

"Our protection was great," Spurrier said. "We had plenty of time back there."

The Gators have just as

good a defensive front as Arkansas if not better, and accuracy will be needed from the signal-caller this weekend. The Gators have a fearsome defensive backfield led by the likes of Thorpe

Award candidate Reggie Nelson.

Mitchell has faced pressure before, and after six weeks to grow up, he appeared to come back in and be the leader the Gamecocks have

seemingly lacked all season.

Mitchell might start Saturday, but one thing is for sure — he will play.

Comments on this story?
E-mail gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu

SLUGFEST • Continued from B1

at Florida, who up to this point had never won an SEC championship. Spurrier, at the still young and vibrant age of 45, was the golden boy who had returned home to push the program over the top. But what he did would exceed all expectations.

In Spurrier's first season at the helm of what became known as the "Fun 'n' Gun" offense, the Gators shined. The 1990 Florida team did not lose at home, matched the nine-win mark and finished first in the SEC. But the team was not recognized as conference champs because of probation, leaving the 1991 squad with something to prove.

In 1991 Spurrier led the Gators to a 10-2 record, the school's first SEC championship, and a top-10 finish. The Florida program had reached the peak of its existence with so much more to come.

After losing in the first ever SEC championship game in 1992, Spurrier's Gators went on an unprecedented run like none other in college football. From 1993 to 1996 Florida went 44-6-1, winning four consecutive SEC championships and playing

in back-to-back national championship games in 1995 and 1996. In 1996 Spurrier and Heisman Trophy winner Danny Wuerffel led the Gators to the first national championship in school history.

The Ol' Ball Coach, as he was dubbed while at Florida, saw six straight seasons produce 10 or more wins at a school that had never won 10 games previously. In the early 1990s Spurrier led the campaign to nickname Ben Hill Griffin Stadium "The Swamp," and since then the stadium has grown to a capacity of more than 90,000 and is known as one of the toughest places to play in college football.

After a period of four seasons in which the Gators won only one SEC championship, Spurrier's 2001 team appeared to be one of his best. With Heisman Trophy candidate Rex Grossman under center, Florida plowed through the SEC with only one hiccup and was ranked second in the BCS with only one game to go in the regular season. That last game, a home contest with Tennessee, would decide the SEC East title and possibly even half of the national championship game. But it wasn't meant

to be for Spurrier and the Gators as the Vols were victorious 34-32. It was only Spurrier's fifth loss in The Swamp as a Gator head coach. And while it wasn't clear at that point, it would be Spurrier's last game as coach of his alma mater.

On Jan. 4, 2002, only two days after Florida's Orange Bowl victory against Maryland, Spurrier resigned as head coach of the Gators.

"I left on my own," Spurrier said about his departure from Gainesville. "I thought there was a new challenge I wanted to take on."

The NFL proved to be a mistake for Spurrier, and he left after only two seasons as head coach for the Washington Redskins. His career in doubt, Spurrier sat out the 2004 season not knowing whether he would coach again.

"When I left I said 'I may be finished or I may not, I don't know,'" Spurrier said. "For a few days I thought I was finished."

Meanwhile a young upstart coach at Bowling Green State University was making a name for himself. A former assistant at Notre Dame under Lou Holtz, Urban Meyer quickly became one of the



Juan Blas / THE DAILY GAMECOCK

USC coach Steve Spurrier motions to players during Saturday's game against Arkansas. Spurrier returns to the Swamp for the first time since becoming USC's coach.

up-and-coming coaches in college football. After only two seasons at Bowling Green State University, Meyer accepted the job at the University of Utah and immediately made the Utes a contender. In only two seasons in Salt Lake City Meyer and the Utes won two WAC Conference Championships and received the first BCS at-large bid for a mid-major team in history.

Then the Gators came calling. Having seen former golden boy Spurrier take the job at South Carolina just days earlier, Florida put the full-court press on Meyer. Despite Notre Dame, Meyer's "dream job" making a last minute play for the young coach, UF's athletic director was able to hang on to Meyer, his new golden boy.

Immediately Meyer exuded the confidence and even cockiness that Florida had lacked since Spurrier's departure. Despite dropping

games to Alabama and LSU in his first season, Meyer and the Gators had a chance to play for an SEC title if they could complete one final task — beat the Gamecocks. Spurrier's Gamecocks.

In a story made for Hollywood, the underdogs finished the job. USC jumped all over the Gators and held on to a 30-22 victory, the Gamecocks' first over Florida since 1939. Spurrier walked off the field at Williams-Brice Stadium with a typical grin of satisfaction on his face.

"I love the Gators, always will," Spurrier said after the game. "But I'm with South Carolina. This is my team now."

In 2006 Meyer has done a pretty accurate Spurrier impersonation, leading his team to an 8-1 record and an SEC East championship. Now, with three games left, his biggest hurdle may again be Spurrier, who will coach the opposing team in the Swamp for the first time.

In 12 seasons at Florida, Spurrier won 68 games in the Swamp, compiling winning streaks of 30 and 23 along the way. In his second season at Florida, Meyer has not lost in the house that Spurrier built.

The walls of Ben Hill Griffin Stadium read like a Spurrier resume. Six SEC championships. One national championship. The 1966 Heisman Trophy winner. And an inaugural member of Florida's "Ring of Honor." But if the walls weren't enough, the shadow cast by the legend himself will hang over Meyer on Saturday.

"I think it's no different than (Bo) Schembechler walking into Michigan and Woody Hayes walking into Ohio State," Meyer said on Monday. "Is there a shadow? You're damn right there's a shadow. It's a big one."

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ACC, Big Ten titles still up in the air

Week 10 matchups could go long way in making champs

Matt Moore
STAFF WRITER

How great would it have been if Ball State could have held on at Michigan? You're probably thinking, "Huh?" Think about it though. A loss like that lights a fire under the Wolverines, and they beat Ohio State. We wouldn't have to see any of that Big Ten mess in the championship game.

With that said, I don't have much else about Week 10. Clemson, Tennessee, Iowa and Georgia lost, and Minnesota scored 63 points. Each of these matchups baffles me, but I can move on.

I wasn't exactly hoping for a 4-2 week last week, but I'll take it considering I was picking a Tulsa-Houston game that I honestly had no business picking.

It kind of makes me wonder why I'm picking some of the games I am this week, but you're just going to have to trust me. I've got a good feeling for Week 11.

No. 13 Tennessee will be looking for the upset this weekend as they travel to No. 11 Arkansas. That's right folks: Tennessee is trying to upset the 5.5-point-favorite Arkansas Razorbacks.

Arkansas running back Darren McFadden ran wild on the Gamecocks last week as he carried the ball 25 times for 215 yards and two touchdowns. Even Felix Jones' 53 yards were more than the entire Gamecock rush attack at 51.

Last week's loss ended Tennessee's national and SEC championship hopes, but they would still love a spot in a January bowl game. Quarterback Erik Ainge has been hurt and backup Jonathan Crompton will likely be the starter. Crompton proved an able candidate last week as he passed for 183 and two touchdowns.

The Vols are looking for a long, long game because that means their attack is working and Arkansas is not running the ball down the field and time off the clock. Vegas may be giving the Razorbacks 5.5, but I'll give the Vols 7.

Tennessee 24 — Arkansas 17

Things are a little mixed up out west as well, as No. 7 So. Cal is now the only real challenger to California. This is a bit backward from



Tennessee quarterback Jonathan Crompton (8) is tackled during their game against the LSU Tigers on Saturday in Knoxville, Tenn.

what looked to be another conference title for the Trojans. While the No. 21 Oregon Ducks may not be in the hunt, they'd love to play spoiler, especially after last year's 45-13 drubbing.

In what seems to be the year of the two-headed monster at the running back position (McFadden/Jones at Arkansas, James Davis/C.J. Spiller at Clemson, even Pat White/Steve Slaton at West Virginia) it is hard to believe we haven't heard more about running backs Jonathan Stewart and Jeremiah Johnson at Oregon. The two have combined for 1,287 yards and 16 touchdowns, picking up 6 yards on average each time either of them touch the ball.

On the other side of the ball, quarterback John David Booty will want the same slow game Tennessee will be looking for. Booty has passed for 1,966 yards and 19 touchdowns, and he has a couple of go-to guys in Steve Smith and Dwayne Jarrett.

The USC pass attack should keep the Trojans alive in what will prove to be the

ultimate Pac-10 showdown when No. 8 Cal arrives in Los Angeles next week.

Oregon 27 — So. Cal 31

In one more game that just doesn't seem right, No. 18 Wake Forest travels down to Tallahassee in an effort to get one step closer to the Atlantic Coast Conference championship and put FSU one step closer to the Dukes and North Carolinas of the world.

Wake has really done it all this season. They won big at Ole Miss and against Liberty, and they've pulled out some squeakers against just about everybody else (except for the Clemson debacle). The offense hasn't been phenomenal, and the defense has had its weak moments. But, when it comes down to it, Wake is 8-1 and that cannot be taken away.

The one constant in the Demon Deacon world has been kicker Sam Swank, who has connected on four field goals longer than 50 yards and hit all 24 of his extra points. The Deacon may need his true foot to get past the Seminoles and march to

Jacksonville.

Wake Forest 16 — Florida State 13

Other games of note: With the MAC West title on the line, the directional Michigans meet up for a pretty good Friday night game. Central Michigan quarterback Dan LeFevour has passed for 17 touchdowns and run for five more to lead the Chippewas to a 5-0 conference start. By the way, LeFevour is a freshman with quite a bit of potential down the road. Central takes this one and the West.

Western Michigan 21 — Central Michigan 35

No. 14 Boise State will be undefeated and in a BCS game at the end of the season. That is, unless San Jose State has anything to say about it. The Broncos are playing away from the beloved blue field, but this one won't even be close.

Boise State 42 — San Jose State 15

Clemson was embarrassed in Death Valley last week as their offense failed to find the

end zone against a lackluster Maryland team. Expect the offense to get back on track against an N.C. State team that hasn't won since the beginning of October.

N.C. State 14 — Clemson 38

Expect a thriller in Miami this weekend as 1-7 Louisiana-Monroe faces off against 0-8 Florida International. Let's just say the winner of this one isn't the worst team in the country and the loser is.

Louisiana-Monroe 2 — Florida

Matt's Top 10

1. Ohio State
2. Michigan
3. Louisville
4. Texas
5. Auburn
6. Florida
7. California
8. Arkansas
9. So. Cal
10. West Virginia

Matt's Heisman List

1. Troy Smith
2. Pat White
3. Mike Hart
4. Ray Rice
5. Brady Quinn

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The Edge

"THE SWAMP," GAINESVILLE, FLA.

NOVEMBER 11, 2006
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USC

VS.

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CHRIS HAMPTON, SAFETY #33

The junior safety is top 10 on the team in tackles this year, and his two interceptions are tied with numerous other players for the team lead. With a strong pass defense, Hampton will need to keep an eye on a Florida spread option attack that can cause confusion for a defense.

FREDDIE BROWN, WIDE RECEIVER #82

After his performance last weekend, Brown moved up the Gamecocks' depth chart to the No. 3 receiver spot alongside Sidney Rice and Kenny McKinley. If he keeps up the good work, his performance could set Carolina up for a win in the Swamp.

Who has the Edge?

Quarterback

USC — Last year's hero Blake Mitchell is back from his bench-warming duties and is the Gamecocks' starting signal-caller this week. Syvelle Newton could see action if Mitchell doesn't perform well, but the duo provide Carolina with an attack much similar to the Gators' runner/passer attack with Tebow and Leak. If Mitchell plays like he did against Arkansas in the second half, it could be a good sign for the Gamecocks.

FLORIDA — The Gators bring in Leak's amazing throwing ability and Tebow's running prowess, an option that has made them one of the hardest to defend all season. Though Leak will take the majority of the snaps against USC, Tebow will get his chance to play. But with the senior Heisman candidate throwing 17 touchdowns this season, Leak is the clear leader of this team.

EDGE: ☒ FLORIDA

Running backs

USC — Cory Boyd was limited last week with an illness and though he saw playing time, he never saw a carry. This will change against Florida, as Boyd will be the guy to carry the load against a stout defense. His hardnosed running will be the key if USC expects to establish any sort of running attack. Mike Davis, who did have success against Florida last year, will need to do a good job in relief to keep things interesting.

THE EDGE ● B6

REGGIE NELSON, CORNERBACK, #1

The secondary vocal leader, Nelson is second on the Gator team in interceptions. His quick style of play and hard-hitting ability has earned him the reputation as one of the best secondary players in the SEC and a potential All-SEC selection.

CHRIS LEAK, QUARTERBACK, #12

Leak continues to make a strong case for being one of the players sitting in the Downtown Athletic Club at season's end for a possible Heisman Trophy. But Leak's willingness to split time with backup Tim Tebow has been an option that makes the Florida offense lethal.

GAMECOCK CHALLENGE

Georgia at 5 Auburn

Vanderbilt at Kentucky

N.C. State at Clemson

Nebraska at 24 Texas A&M

13 Tennessee at 11 Arkansas

Texas Tech at 17 Oklahoma

18 Wake Forest at FSU

21 Oregon at 7 So. Cal

Miami at 23 Maryland

USC at 6 Florida

THE CHALLENGE: Every week, The Daily Gamecock's readers and staff test their sports knowledge with game predictions.



Alex Riley

Sports Editor,
The Daily Gamecock
(57-33)

If the pressure is truly off as Steve Spurrier would have us believe, USC should go into Gainesville and pull this one out. After all, the Gators did almost lose to the mighty Vandy last week.

Other picks: Auburn, Kentucky, N.C. State, Texas A&M, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Wake, So. Cal, Maryland, USC 28-27



TOM BENNING

Sports Writer,
The Daily Gamecock
(66-24)

I'm banking on Tim Tebow's rear being too sore for him to run after all of the butt-kissing the media has given him. Even then, I don't think there is enough Spurrier magic to pull this one off.

Other picks: Auburn, Kentucky, Clemson, Nebraska, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Wake, Oregon, Maryland, Florida 24-22



MATT MOORE

Staff Writer,
The Daily Gamecock
(67-23)

Spurrier will make things interesting in Gainesville, but Florida's defensive backs are solid enough to keep the ball in Blake Mitchell's hands. Expect quite a few coverage sacks in the Gator win.

Other picks: Auburn, Kentucky, Clemson, Nebraska, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Wake, So. Cal, Maryland, Florida 28-20



JAKE BROOM

Columnist,
The Daily Gamecock
(70-20)

If the Gamecocks can score first and quiet the crowd a little bit, I'll like their chances a lot more. If not, it could get ugly. Not Joakim Noah ugly, but ugly.

Other picks: Auburn, Kentucky, Clemson, Nebraska, Arkansas, Oklahoma, FSU, Oregon, Miami, Florida 30-24



STEVEN VAN HAREN

Editor in chief,
The Daily Gamecock
(55-35)

It'll be just like the good old days: Spurrier shuffling between two quarterbacks to keep the defense on its toes. Lord, another close game, but this one's ours.

Other picks: Auburn, Vanderbilt, N.C. State, Texas A&M, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Wake, So. Cal, Maryland, USC 27-24

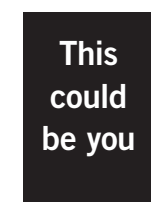


Lauren Smith

Staffer of the Week
(55-35)

I think USC pulls this one out because of Blake Mitchell's return to the field. But with a combination of Syvelle and Mitchell, things could get interesting for the Gators.

Other picks: Georgia, Kentucky, N.C. State, Texas A&M, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Wake, So. Cal, Maryland, USC 32-28



Jonathan Hillyard

Reader of the Week

My brain says no, but my loins say yes. The Ol' Ball Coach will ride the Mitchell-Newton two-headed monster to a win in the house that Spurrier built.

Other picks: Auburn, Kentucky, Clemson, Nebraska, Arkansas, Oklahoma, FSU, So. Cal, Maryland, USC 31-28

Want to be reader of the week? E-mail your picks for next week's games to gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu and see if you have the best knowledge of college football action around the country. Make sure to include your prediction for the score of the USC game as a tie breaker. Check the The Daily Gamecock Sports on Wednesday for the winners or log on at dailygamecock.com. Good Luck

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Meyer, Gators looking for payback

After 30-22 loss last year, Florida looks to stay in national title picture

Christopher Aleman
THE DAILY GAMECOCK

One would think that after clinching the SEC East with last week’s win against Vanderbilt, Urban Meyer and the No. 6 Florida Gators (8-1, 6-1 SEC) would begin looking forward to the SEC championship in Atlanta and a shot at a BCS bowl berth.

Three unranked teams remain on Florida’s schedule, and many Gator fans believe a one-loss season is virtually a lock.

Urban Meyer, however, knows his team will have to play its best to beat the South Carolina Gamecocks (5-4, 3-4 SEC) in Saturday’s match, which marks USC coach Steve Spurrier’s return to the Swamp.

Recent changes in USC’s starting line-up have prompted the Gators’ coaching staff to prepare for a Gamecock offense that might feature a combination of pro-style quarterback Blake Mitchell and dual-threat signal-caller Syvelle Newton.

“We haven’t really seen a true drop-back pass team,” Meyer said in an interview with Rivals.com. “If Mitchell’s the quarterback, that’s the drop-back passing game. If the other guy’s (Newton) in there, they are not. It’s a little more spread option and spread read, so we’re preparing for two offenses.”

Meyer said he plans to employ zone defenses to cover the talented USC receiving corps led by sophomores Sidney Rice and Kenny McKinley. The zone defense, which features coverages that have been problematic for Mitchell, could potentially be the key to shutting down Spurrier’s signature passing game.

“It certainly won’t be the kind of game where we say, ‘you’ve got him, you’ve got him and you’ve got him,’” Meyer told Rivals.com

As far as offense is concerned, the Gators’ explosive spread offense certainly will test the USC secondary, ranked fourth in the SEC

Like South Carolina, Florida might employ a two-quarterback system that will keep the opposing defense on its toes.

True freshman quarterback Tim Tebow has



Steve Cannon / THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Florida’s Tim Tebow runs for first down yardage past the defense of Georgia’s Pasul Oliver in the first quarter of a college football game on Saturday Oct. 28, 2006 in Jacksonville, Fla.

shown that he can scamper for first-down yardage and find the end zone in goal line situations. Tebow, who has thrown for two touchdowns this season, is the team’s second-leading rusher with 328 yards and four touchdowns.

Senior signal-caller Chris Leak was recently honored as one of the 18 semifinalists for the O’Brien Award, which is awarded to the nation’s best quarterback. Leak leads the SEC’s

fourth-most prolific passing offense with 17 touchdowns and 1,903 yards through the air.

If the Gators do not have success passing the ball, they will rely on their exceptional running game and challenge South Carolina’s porous defensive line.

The ground attack will be led by senior running back DeShawn Wynn, who has rushed for three touchdowns this season and averages 5.1 yards per carry.

Aside from media coverage revolving around Spurrier’s return to his alma mater, this weekend’s contest will be emotional for both squads.

Each team’s seniors are nearing the end of their college careers, and win or lose, Meyer said he will be proud of his senior players in their second-to-last home game.

“It’s hard to earn people’s admiration, but they certainly have earned mine

and I would imagine a lot of people’s admiration. They’ve done something that hasn’t been done since 2000, and I’m indebted to them. I really believe our staff is indebted to them,” Meyer said.

Despite the media hoopla, Florida senior offensive guard Steve Rissler remains focused on this weekend’s contest.

“We have a good South Carolina team coming in with Steve Spurrier, and

with the results of last year, we need to stay focused and be prepared to come out and play hard,” Rissler said.

In the series that dates back to 1911, Florida leads 19-4-3 and is 10-0 against the Gamecocks at Ben Hill Griffin Stadium. The Gators would improve to 9-1 for the 11th time in school history with a win this weekend.

Comments on this story?
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THE EDGE • Continued from B4-B5

Florida — DeShawn Wynn has been the Gators’ true running back this season, gaining a little more than 500 yards on the year. But Tebow is Florida’s second-leading rusher, which doesn’t bode well for their attack. No Gator has more than 25 yards per game after the top two runners, and Wynn barely tops 55 yards per outing. This could be the one area Florida is weak in.

Edge: USC

Wide receiver

USC — Sidney Rice finally shook his lack of production in SEC games by getting his first 100-yard outing against a conference team. His acrobatic touchdown catch in the fourth put USC in position to beat Arkansas last week. Added to that, Kenny McKinley continues to make hard catches over the middle and Freddie Brown has become the Gamecocks’ third receiver after some amazing grabs last week.

Florida — The Gators’ radio team calls him “Dallas Baker, the touchdown maker” — and rightfully so. His seven grabs on the year are three more than Andre Caldwell. Florida’s strength lies with its pass game, as four receivers average more than 20 yards per game, including Baker’s 81.2 yards per outing.

Edge: Even

Offensive line

USC — The unit has become better in recent weeks as freshmen continue to improve and guys such as Justin Sorensen live up to their potential. Florida’s defensive front is quick and places a lot of pressure on opposing quarterbacks, so the line will need to be at its best in order to give the less-than-mobile passer Mitchell time to throw.

Florida — The Gators have given up 17 sacks this season and their rushing totals aren’t impressive. But they thrive on pass blocking and that is shown in Leak’s gaudy numbers. Steve Rissler, Florida’s only senior and the team’s leader, will be ready to play against the Gamecocks.

Edge: Florida

Defensive line

USC — Eric Norwood continues to shine on the front for the Gamecocks as his 4.5 sacks leads the team. Add in Casper Brinkley’s 7.5 tackles for a loss and you’ve got a solid combination on the edge. Carolina’s speed will be needed in this game to keep pace with an extremely quick Gator attack.

Florida — The Gators boast five players with three or more sacks on the year, including Derek Harvey with eight sacks on the season and 9.5 tackles for a loss. They blend speed and strength together and can blow up an opposing offensive line at any given point. Just ask their eight victims this season.

Edge: Florida

Linebackers

USC — Jasper Brinkley, Marvin Sapp and Rodney Paulk had some trouble with the run last week, but overall have been solid this season. That trend could continue Saturday as they look to put pressure on Leak, forcing him to make bad throws and decisions, much like Vanderbilt tried to do last week.

Florida — Earl Everett and Brandon Siler could be the best linebacking combo in the country as both players will potentially be first-day draft picks. The duo lead the Gators in tackles, and Siler has picked up nine tackles for a loss from his position. Even more impressive, the duo has five pass

breakups.

Edge: Even

Secondary

USC — Some members of the USC secondary could be called the best in the conference while others are suspect at best. Fred Bennett has been at his peak all season and safeties Stoney Woodson and Chris Hampton haven’t been bad. But Carlos Thomas has been an area of great concern for Carolina, especially after giving up some key plays last week.

Florida — Ryan Smith and Reggie Nelson have combined for 10 interceptions this year, and that’s basically the Gators pass defense. Both players are relied upon heavily to shut down opposing teams’ pass attacks and nothings different this week. Rice and Co. will have to be at their best to put moves on some of the SEC’s top secondary players.

Edge: Florida

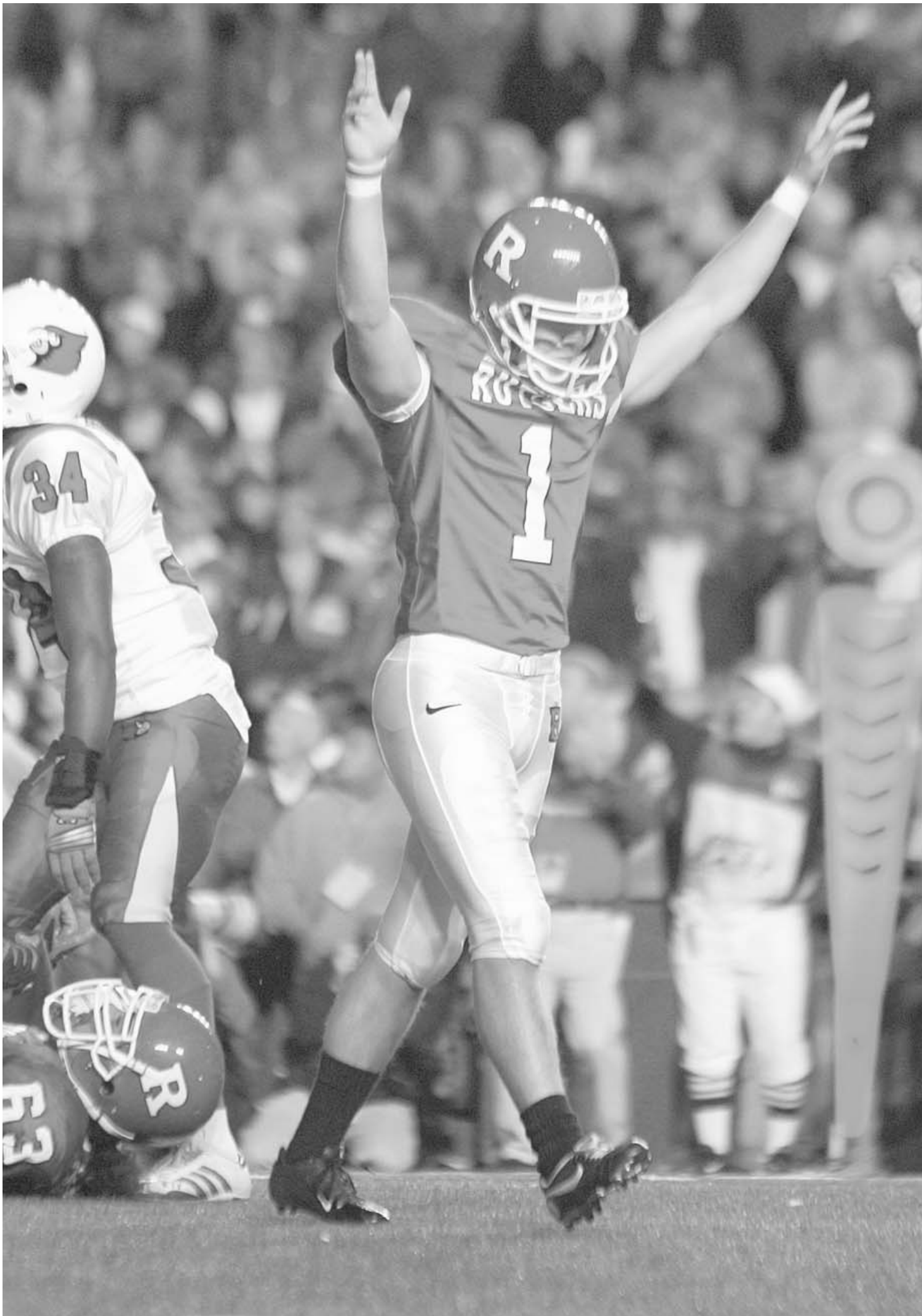
Special teams

USC — Ryan Succop is now a Groza finalist — rightfully so. Since his one miss against Georgia, the sophomore has nailed three field goals of 50 yards or more. But the return game for Carolina hasn’t done much of anything this season, and that lack of field position could be key in this game.

Florida — Chris Hetland is awful in every sense of the word. Only 2-of-8 on field goals this year isn’t impressing anybody. The Gators don’t want this one to come down to a field goal kicking situation for the win. Eric Wilbur is averaging 43.6 yards per punt and does have 16 kicks downed inside the 20.

Edge: USC

Comments on this story? E-mail gcksprts@gwm.sc.edu



Rutgers' Jeremy Ito (1) celebrates his field goal with 13 seconds left to put Rutgers ahead of Louisville, 28 -25, in NCAA football action Thursday in Piscataway, N.J..

Rutgers stays perfect against Louisville

Scarlet Knights open door for BCS controversy with upset win in Big East battle

Ralph D. Russo
The Associated Press

PISCATAWAY, N.J. - Rutgers arrived — and kicked No. 3 Louisville right out of the national championship scramble.

The program that once set the standard for college football futility jumped into the title picture Thursday night by rallying from a big deficit for a 28-25 victory over the Cardinals.

On his second chance, Jeremy Ito kicked a 28-yard tiebreaking field goal with 13 seconds left and the second consecutive primetime showdown between Big East unbeaten went to No. 15 Rutgers (9-0, 4-0).

"This is the new Rutgers," said Scarlet Knights fullback Brian Leonard, the fifth-year senior who was a redshirt freshman on a 1-11 team. "This is a dream of mine."

Just a week ago, it was Louisville (8-1, 3-1) celebrating the biggest win in school history, a 44-34 victory over West Virginia that vaulted the Cardinals into the thick of the national championship race.

This time, it was Rutgers' turn to party.

The Scarlet Knights shut out the high-scoring Cardinals in the second half, erased an 18-point deficit and got the ball with 5:28 left in the fourth quarter at their own 9.

"You don't come back the way we did tonight unless you

have believers," coach Greg Schiano said.

Leonard went 26 yards with a pass in the flats to get Rutgers into Louisville territory and Ray Rice broke a 20-yard run to get into field-goal range. Ito missed a 33-yarder with 18 seconds left, but Louisville was offside and Ito got another shot — and it was perfect.

The final play, appropriately, was a sack of Brian Brohm by a Rutgers' defense that proved worthy of the No. 2 ranking in the country.

"We were totally out of sync in the second half, and that can't happen," Louisville coach Bobby Petrino said. "Some of our goals are still out there, that we can reach. We're going to need some help."

After the game, Rutgers fans flooded the field and swarmed the players.

"It's so awesome with 44,000 fans on this field right now, all Rutgers fans," Leonard said.

There are now four undefeated teams in the country — No. 1 Ohio State, No. 2 Michigan, No. 14 Boise State and — it's probably hard for many to believe — Rutgers.

Rice, the Heisman Trophy candidate, yes the Scarlet Knights even have one of those, ran for 22 times for 131 yards and two touchdowns.

Brohm, who looked like the Heisman contender last week, went 13-for-27 for

163 yards with a TD and an interception. He also was sacked five times, twice each by Jamel Meekins and Devraun Thompson.

When Schiano took over at Rutgers in 2001 the program was as bad as it got in college football, and it didn't get much better in the former Miami assistant's first few seasons.

The Scarlet Knights won three games in Schiano's first two years and 12 his first four, before finally turning it around last year with seven victories and a bowl bid.

This season, off to their best start 1976, the next step for the Scarlet Knights was to show if they could compete with the nation's best.

The answer: Absolutely.

Louisville jumped out to a 25-7 lead in the first half behind Brohm and a 100-yard kickoff return by Jajuan Spillman and it looked as if the Cardinals were on their way to a BCS boosting romp.

But laughingstocks no more, the Scarlet Knights came charging back to tie it in the fourth quarter behind speedy tailback Rice and a relentless pass rush.

Rutgers gave the 2,000 fans packed into the temporary stands behind the south end zone something to go crazy about when Kenny Britt reached high from a pass over the middle and broke free for a 67-yard reception right in their direction. Louisville's William Gay caught Britt

from behind and stripped the ball, but it bounced right back to the Rutgers' receiver, who covered it at the 4.

And if that wasn't enough to swing momentum Rutgers' way, Rice's 4-yard TD sweep on the next play surely was. The 2-point conversion cut it to 25-22 with 4:42 left in the third quarter.

After struggling early to slow down Brohm and the No. 2 offense in the country, Meekins and the hard-rushing Scarlet Knights held the Cardinals without a first down for the first 26 minutes of the second half.

When Ito nailed a 46-yard field goal with 10:17 left in the fourth quarter, the game was tied at 25, the cannon behind the south end zone boomed and the record crowd of 44,111 was in a white-towel waving frenzy.

Students started lining up outside Rutgers Stadium more than four hours before kickoff for the most important college football game in New Jersey since, well, maybe the first one was played between Rutgers and Princeton in 1869. Never before had Rutgers played in a game matching ranked teams.

Now the Scarlet Knights have won one and can start wondering where they will be ranked when the next Bowl Championship Series standings come out Sunday.

"Hopefully we go up," Rice said. "I'm just glad we won this game."

5 Questions with Jake Broom

1 Will Carolina finally prove me wrong just this once?

For those of you not scoring at home (meaning everybody not named Jake Broom), I am 9-0 predicting Carolina football games in the Gamecock Challenge. I'm not bragging, because it isn't that hard to predict USC games, but as a superstitious guy, I'd like to see USC prove me wrong once. It is getting to the point where I almost feel like maybe my picks have some sort of supernatural effect on the outcome of USC games.



Jake Broom
Fourth-year political science student

Well, if you haven't noticed yet, I'm picking Florida to win Saturday. So please prove me wrong Gamecocks. I'm starting to feel like every time I pick USC to lose, people in class are giving me evil stares and spending their free time making voodoo dolls on the Horseshoe. Maybe that has nothing to do with the Gamecock Challenge and people just generally don't like me. Either way, it's not a great feeling.

2 Is there a more terrified man in the state of Florida than Jeremy Foley?

Jeremy Foley, Florida's athletics director, didn't want to re-hire Steve Spurrier two years ago. He didn't even try to.

Last year, after the Gators' new coach Urban Meyer made his first career trip to Columbia and returned to Gainesville with a 30-22 loss, Foley's decision to ignore Spurrier looked stupid enough that there were rumors Foley's job wasn't really safe.

If USC can squeak out a win and end Florida's national championship hopes, look out for Jeremy Foley. He'll be the guy faxing resumes out from the press box and looking over his shoulder every few seconds.

3 Will the real Blake Mitchell please stand up?

Last week it looked like someone had hypnotized Blake Mitchell at halftime and convinced him he was Rex Grossman for a quarter and a half. I think I even saw him give a fist pump or two. Then Arkansas defensive coordinator Reggie Herring showed this new thing called a "zone defense" in the fourth quarter and Mitchell tossed an interception down the middle of the field that made me throw up a little in my mouth.

If New Blake Mitchell shows up, it could be fun to watch. If Old Blake Mitchell shows up, it could be painful to watch (especially after I dropkick the TV into the wall after the first time he throws into double coverage).

4 Will USC's defensive backs start being awarded half of a touchdown every time they tip a ball to an opposing wide receiver in the end zone?

Maybe USC should beg the NCAA into making the dysfunctional tip drill into some sort of 3.5-point play, because Carolina's defensive backs have turned it into an art form. It's unbelievable. If USC had a male volleyball team, it would be full of former Gamecocks defensive backs turned All-Americans.

I really hope this trend stops, because I personally like defensive backs coach Ron Cooper and I'm not looking forward to the day he literally explodes on the sidelines when the ball is tipped into the end zone again. Nobody wants to see that.

5 Will somebody please talk trash to Sidney Rice?

Arkansas defensive back Chris Houston decided it would be a good idea to talk trash to Sidney Rice. Seven catches, 126 yards and a touchdown later, Houston had the same look on his face every time he lined up against Sidney that I do when I hand in Spanish tests.

This is an open plea to any Florida Gator: Please say something to Sidney Rice. I don't care what you say — just say something.

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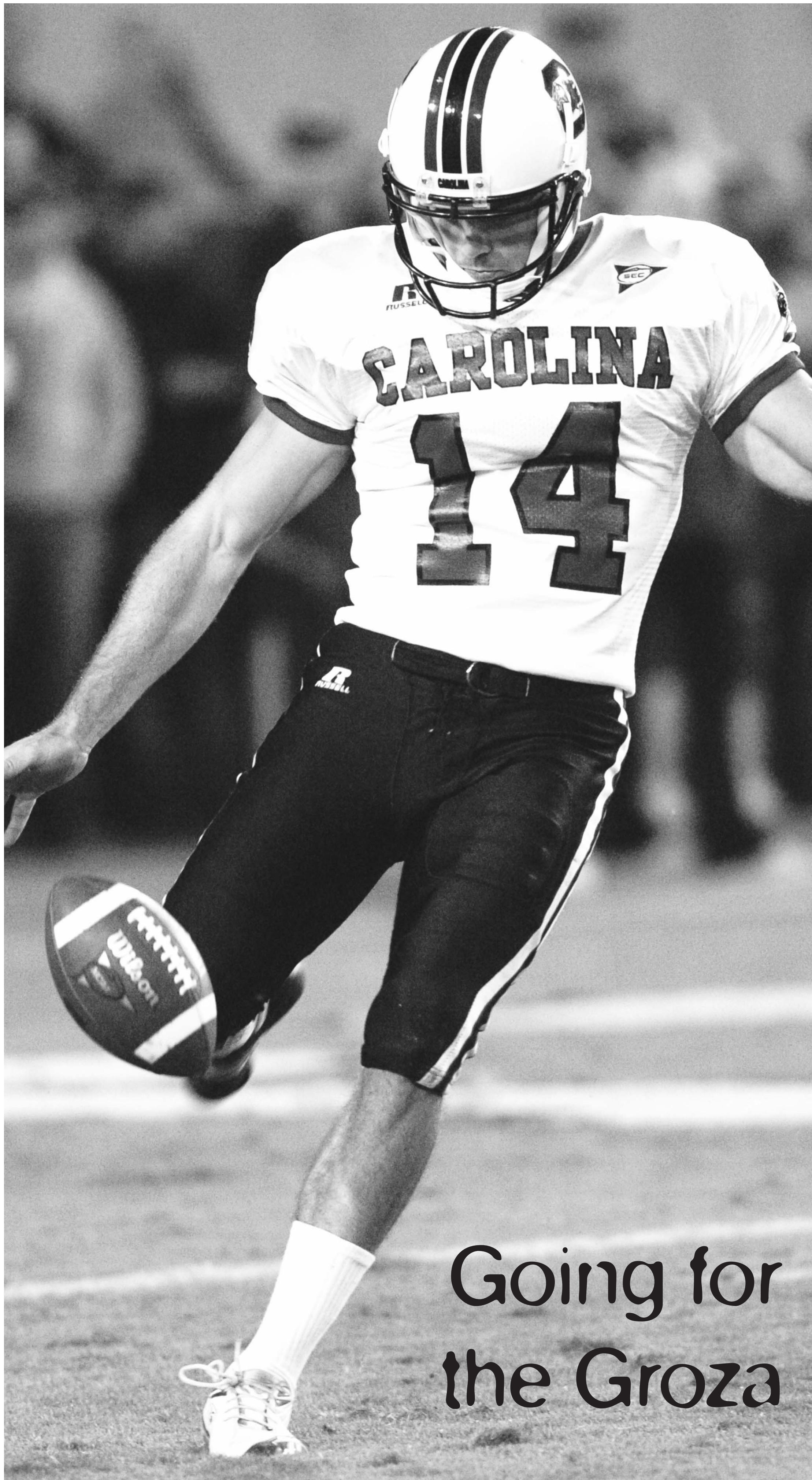
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